

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A strip for safeguarding a document, the strip having a longitudinal direction and two opposing surfaces and comprising in the longitudinal direction an alternation of metallised regions and transparent regions, said alternation being capable of establishing a macro-contrast on the document to be safeguarded in such a way as to constitute protection against reproduction by means of a photocopying machine of the documents with which the strip will be associated, wherein the strip also comprises optically active elements in association with the metallised regions and/or the transparent regions of the strip to produce an optical effect on the document to be safeguarded on a less than macro-contrast scale, said optical effect making it possible to identify said document, wherein the transparent regions extend between the opposing surfaces of the strip, wherein said optically active elements comprise optically active structures formed from a metallization, and wherein at least some of said optically active structures comprise one or more of the following safeguard elements:

- zone comprising diffraction lines,
- zone comprising a diffraction mat, and
- zone comprising a hologram.

2. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein said optical effect established on said document to be safeguarded is on a micro-contrast scale.

3. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein said optical effect established on said document to be safeguarded is a visual effect dependent on the angles of illumination and/or observation of the strip.

4. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein said transparent regions of the strip are associated with a varnish producing a glossy effect visible to the naked eye.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein said optically active elements comprise optically variable elements.

7. (Currently Amended) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said optically active structures further comprise one or more of the following safeguard elements:

- purely reflective metallised zone,
- metallised zone of a transparent region,
- demetallised zone of a metallised region and
- zone bearing printing.

8. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said optically active structures comprise different zones of which some comprise at least one of said safeguard elements.

9. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 8, wherein at least some of said zones are of a dimension as to not be perceptible to the naked eye.

10. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said optically active elements are associated with metallised regions.

11. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 10, wherein said optically active elements comprise a diffraction mat integrated into a diffractive metallised region.

12. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 10, wherein said optically active elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions.

13. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 12, wherein said optically active elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions which, in the longitudinal direction of the strip, are disposed on respective sides of at least some of said metallised regions of the strip, said metallised regions being diffractive regions.

14. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 13, wherein for each metallised and diffractive region, on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in adjacent relationship with said metallised and diffractive region.

15. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 13, wherein for each metallised and diffractive region, on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in such a way as to provide in the longitudinal direction of the strip an interval between said purely reflective region and said metallised and diffractive region.

16. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 15, wherein said interval is transparent.

17. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said optically active elements are associated with transparent regions.

18. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 17, wherein said optically active elements comprise purely reflective metallised regions, which, in the longitudinal direction of the strip, are disposed on respective sides of at least some of said transparent regions of the strip.

19. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 18, wherein for each transparent region on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in adjacent relationship with said transparent region.

20. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 18, wherein for each transparent region on respective sides of which are disposed purely reflective metallised regions, said purely reflective regions are disposed in such a way as to provide in the longitudinal direction of the strip an interval between said purely reflective region and said transparent region.

21. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 20, wherein said interval is:

- an interval comprising metallised and diffractive zones, and/or
- an interval comprising printed zones, and/or
- an interval comprising a diffraction mat, and/or
- an interval comprising a hologram.

22. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein said optically active elements are associated in register relationship with the metallised regions and/or the transparent regions of the strip.

23. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 1, wherein the strip is also associated with luminescent or absorbent motifs.

24. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 23, wherein said luminescent or absorbent motifs are printed in overlapping relationship with the strip.

25. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 24, wherein said printing is effected in at least partially overlapping relationship with metallised regions of the strip.

26. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 24, wherein said printing is effected in at least partially overlapping relationship with transparent regions of the strip.

27. (Previously Presented) A document safeguard strip according to claim 23, wherein said luminescent or absorbent motifs are integrated in the interior of the strip.

28. (Previously Presented) A security document incorporating a strip according to claim 1.